THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Economic opportunities in agriculture

1037. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of recently held conference on US-India partnership Creating Economic Opportunities in Agriculture organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry;

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the conference; and

(c) the steps both countries have taken to improve agricultural tie-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government was not associated with the Conference. However, according to the information provided by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the main points discussed in the conference were:

- Food and agriculture as a critical part of the US-India strategic alliance
- The historical cooperation between US and agricultural universities in India
- Improvement in the planting material, promotion of bio-technology, focus on value added products and improvement in infrastructure
- Tie-up between Indian and American companies for mutual benefit in the field of agriculture

(c) An Indo-US Sub-Commission on Agriculture was constituted in 1980. An Agreement on Cooperation in Agricultural Sciences was signed in 1996.